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NEW CHAIRMAN FOR NLM BOARD OF REGENTS

The Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine held its twenty-first meeting at the Library on June 17 and 18, 1965, concurrent with the celebration of the John Shaw Billings Centennial during the afternoon and evening of June 17.

The Board heard the report of the Director of the Library, Dr. Martin M. Cummings, and received copies of the NLM Annual Report for FY 1964. Dr. Richard Orr, Director of the Institute for Advancement of Medical Communication, Bethesda, Maryland, spoke on "Standards for Medical Library Service," reviewing the communication problems in biomedical research. The first session concluded with a report by Mr. Charles J. Austin, Chief, Data Processing Division, NLM, on a "Proposal for the Evaluation of MEDLARS."

On June 18, Mr. Scott Adams, Deputy Director of NLM, and Mr. Austin delivered a report on MEDLARS decentralization site visits. Dr. Barnes Woodhall, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Tape Utilization, outlined for the Board the recommendations of his group, formulated after its meeting on May 25, concerning the use of MEDLARS tapes outside the Library.

On behalf of the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Dr. Cummings presented certificates of appreciation to Dr. Norman Q. Brill, for his service as both a member of the Board and its Chairman, and to Dr. Saul Jarcho for his contribution as a member during the past four years. The retiring Chairman, Dr. Brill, then transferred the gavel to his newly appointed successor, Dr. William N. Hubbard, Jr., Dean, University of Michigan Medical School.

SENATE HEARINGS ON MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSISTANCE ACT

The Subcommittee on Health of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare heard testimony, on June 14 and 15, on S. 597, the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965, introduced by Senator Lister Hill of Alabama.

Witnesses on the first day were: Dr. Edward W. Dempsey, DHEW, Special Assistant to the Secretary (Health and Medical Affairs), accompanied by Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service, and Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director of the National Library of Medicine; Dr. Alfred N. Brandon, President, Medical Library Association, and Librarian, Welch Medical Library; Mr. Richard H. Logsdon, President, Association of Research Libraries, and Director, Columbia University Libraries; Mr. William S. Budington, President, Special Libraries Association, and Deputy Director, John Crerar Library; and Dr. William N. Hubbard, Jr., incoming Chairman of the Board of Regents, NLM, and Dean, University of Michigan Medical School.

On June 15, the Subcommittee heard testimony from: Dr. George A. Wolf, Jr., President, Association of American Medical Colleges, and Vice-President of Medical and Dental Affairs, Tufts University; Dr. Edward C. Rosenow, Jr., Executive Director, American College of Physicians; Dr. Carleton B. Chapman, President, American Heart Association, and Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School; Dr. William A. Sodeman, Dean, Jefferson Medical College, and member of the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education; Dr. Sholom Pearlman, Secretary, Council on Dental Research of the American Dental Association, and member of the Advisory Committee on Scientific Publications of the National Library of Medicine; and Mr. Erich Meyerhoff, Director, Medical Library Center of New York.

CONGRESSMEN, SCHOLARS, HONOR BILLINGS

The celebration on June 17 of the John Shaw Billings Centennial brought to the National Library of Medicine representatives of the White House, Congressional leaders, and other distinguished guests from the scientific, medical library, and medical education communities.

In a private ceremony preceding the Centennial, Colonel Robert Fletcher presented to the Library the Honorary Gold Medal of the Royal College of Surgeons of England which was awarded in 1910 to his distinguished ancestor, Dr. Robert Fletcher, "for liberal acts of distinguished labours, researches, and discoveries eminently conducive to the improvement of natural knowledge and the healing art." Only 30 of these medals have been awarded in about 140 years. Dr. Fletcher was for many years Principal Assistant Librarian of the Army Medical Library and served as an editor of both the Index Medicus and the Index Catalogue. Colonel Fletcher also gave the Library a volume of collected reprints of Dr.Fletcher's essays.

Presiding over the afternoon session of the Centennial was Dr. Norman Q. Brill, Chairman of the Library's Board of Regents. After a welcome by

Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director of NLM, Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, introduced Representative John E. Fogarty of Rhode Island, who spoke on "Medical Libraries and Medical Research."

DHEW Undersecretary Wilbur J. Cohen introduced Representative Leo W. O'Brien of New York, who delivered an address on "Medical Libraries and Medical Education," on behalf of Representative Oren Harris of Arkansas who was unable to be present. Following an introduction by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Anthony J. Celebrezze, Senator Lister Hill of Alabama reviewed "The Medical Library Crisis - Billings to MEDLARS."

Guests later toured the Library and viewed the exhibit presented in connection with the Centennial. It comprised a wide variety of Billings memorabilia ranging from personal letters, clippings, and documents to a piece of the early Hollerith tabulation equipment conceived by Dr. Billings. The Fletcher Honorary Medal was also on display at this time.

The evening program, held in the Library's new Billings Conference Room, featured three historical papers on Dr. Billings' life and career. The speakers were Dr. Jean A. Curran, Professor Emeritus of the History of Medicine, State University of New York; Bess Furman, former Washington newspaperwoman and author; and Dr. Frank B. Rogers, Librarian of the Denison Memorial Library, University of Colorado Medical Center, and former Director of NLM.

MR. ADAMS ADDRESSES GSA INSTITUTE, SLA CONVENTION

Mr. Scott Adams, Deputy Director of the Library, spoke on "Missions of Federal Libraries" at the General Services Administration Institute, "Government Library Symposium," held in Washington, June 16-18.

At the 56th Convention of the Special Libraries Association in Philadelphia, June 6-10, Mr.Adams took part in a panel discussion during the general session on "Library Cooperation: Panacea or Pitfall?" He also moderated a panel discussion of the Association's Biological Sciences Division, entitled "Cooperation: One-Way Street or Thoroughfare?".

NLM REVISES REFERENCE SERVICES

The National Library of Medicine recently revised and updated its policies for reference services.

The new statement, dated June 15, 1965, is based on the premises that:

1. As a national library, NLM should direct its reference activities toward exploiting the bibliographic resources of the collections for broad national purposes, in a way most compatible with its mission.

2. NLM's reference activities should serve wherever possible to supplement and support the activities of other medical libraries throughout the country, rather than to supplant them.

Priority of service will be based on the importance of the request in relation to the Library's mission; precedence will generally be assigned to governmental and private requestors who represent major health and medical interests.

Copies of the revised statement on policies for reference service are available on request from the Chief, Reference Services Division, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

FEDERAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE NAMES TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Because the Federal research libraries constitute an important national resource, increasing attention has been focused on the problems they face in meeting their responsibilities.

In recognition of the "need for cooperation and concerted action among Federal libraries," a Federal Library Committee was established in March 1965. Its permanent members are the Librarian of Congress, the Directors of the National Library of Medicine and the National Agricultural Library, and a representative of each of the Executive Departments.

NLM staff members have been appointed to five of the Committee's six task forces, as follows: (1) Automation: Paul C. Redmer, Deputy Chief, Data Processing Division; (2) Acquisition of Library Materials and Correlation of Federal Library Resources: Louis Gerber, M.D., Technical Services Division; (3) Mission of the Federal Library and Standards for Federal Library Service: Scott Adams, Deputy Director (Chairman); (4) Procurement Procedures in Federal Libraries: Samuel Lazerow, Chief, Technical Services Division (Chairman); and (5) Interlibrary Loan Arrangements for Federal Libraries: David A. Kronick, Ph.D., Chief, Reference Services Division.

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